

8-1994

Apex : A Point of Departure, Vol.3, No.06 (August 1994)


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VATICAN ATTACKS LESBIAN MOMS

(The Washington Blade) - The Vatican denounced Lesbian couples who have children by alternative insemination, Reuters reported.

"No child loves being known as the child of an unmarried mother, even less so of a Lesbian mother," wrote the Vatican's official newspaper. "Every child has the right to be born into a regular family made up of a man and a woman."

The Vatican article commented on a recent controversy in Catholic-dominated Italy over a gynecologist who had inseminated a Lesbian, so that she and her partner could have a child.

The gynecologist, Giuseppe Ambrassa, said he agreed to the alternative insemination after psychological and other tests showed that the Lesbian couple would make able parents. An Italian daily, *La Stampa*, wrote that their child would be raised in an "unnatural environment."

Pope John Paul II stressed the "danger of losing the value of matrimony...the stable union between a man and a woman." He said heterosexual marriage is not just a Christian value, but an original value of creation and the "natural right" of all religions and cultures.

The pontiff recently blasted a European Parliament resolution that said Gay couples should be allowed to marry and adopt children.

GAY UNION PUBLISHED

(The Washington Blade) - El Paso, Texas - Readers of the wedding and engagement announcements in the June 26 *El Paso Times* probably found

More NEWS ➡ page 13

Apex

A POINT OF DEPARTURE

VOL. 3, NO. 6

killer hushpuppies at TJ's

August 1994

"LEON," APEX COLUMNIST, REMEMBERED

Don Plourde, aka Leon (see page 6), died July 8, 1994 at the age of 43 from AIDS complications. An activist and educator, he was involved in the Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Equal Protection Lewiston,

Literacy Volunteers of Maine, and the Governor's Task Force on Welfare Reform.

Don's life and achievements were celebrated with a packed service at the First Universalist Church of Auburn,

Maine. Among the speakers were a close friend and his brother Normand Plourde. Excerpts from their testimonials are printed below.

THE BEER BARREL GOES TO COLLEGE

In the seventies the Beer Barrel was a corner bar on Danforth Street in Portland. It had a Pabst Blue Ribbon sign outside and inside were curls of smoke, pitchers of beer, foosball machines, juke box and a whole lot of people who felt that life's opportunities had passed them by.

The Beer Barrel crowd by typical standards were not college material. Don was a man with atypical standards. A man of vision. Don had a vision of free, accessible, and universal education.

Don was director of the Educational Opportunity Center. He wanted to provide educational opportunities for every non-

college material person in southern Maine and possibly the world.

There were three basic barriers that Don had to smash through.

#1. The university did not want to accept,

or have programs for students with GED backgrounds.

#2. The Beer Barrel crowd had left or been kicked out of school. They had been hurt by the system and they were pretty sure they didn't want

to go back. They didn't believe they could go. They didn't believe they could succeed.

#3. The Beer Barrel crowd had no money for tuition, books or child care.

So you basically had a school who didn't want a bunch of students who didn't believe they could go with no money. No problem - Don was a man with an attitude, a vision and a great strategist.

Don challenged the university's elitist admission policy. He challenged the idea that a public school could have a policy of excluding nontraditional students. Don challenged the school loud and clear enough to have them challenge him back. The school told Don if 20 nontraditional students would commute to Biddeford for one semester and succeed academically, the next semester USM would open its doors to them. Basically, they were saying we

More LEON ➡ page 3

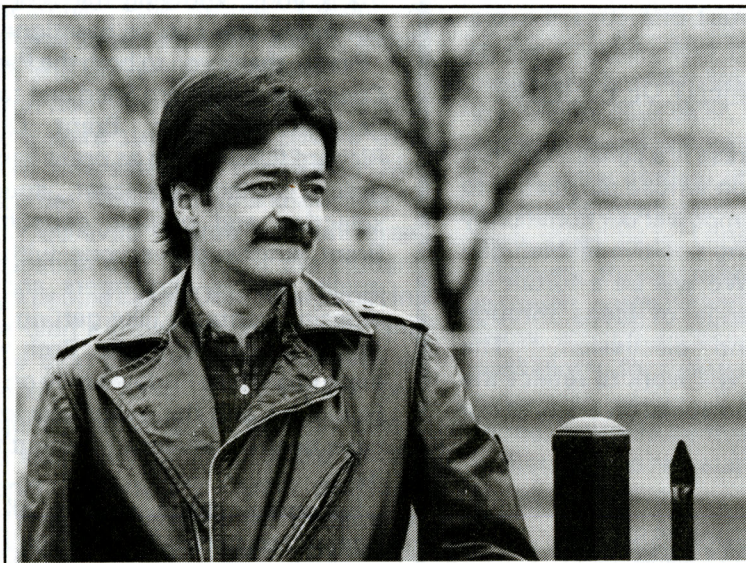


photo by Annette Dragon

The Collective

Annette Dragon
Naomi Falcone
Diane Matthews
Madeleine Winter

Contributors

Thighmaster	Erica Rand
Bee Bell	Leon

Logo Design by Grapheteria

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. If your submission has appeared or will appear in any other publication, we must be notified. Submissions *must* be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

P.O. Box 4743
Portland, ME 04112
(207) 282-8091

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LETTERS...

Dear APEX:

On Saturday, June 18th, Portland's lesbian and gay community experienced a high at Pride '94 very different and far better than previous Pride Days. It was no accident, but was well orchestrated and planned. It represented, for our community, crossing the threshold for our annual event to be regarded as a legitimate greater Portland community annual festival. For all of this I would like to submit the following roster of thank yous, knowing full well that not every one can be mentioned.

Firstly, thank you to both the Parade Coordinator, Richard Fried and to the Festival Producer, Brent Quint. Richard filled in also as press liaison, group contact assistant, speaker selection and graphic consultant. Brent surprised everyone with the quality of his performers and his amazing contacts (like getting Miss Maine for the festival). Both were instrumental to Friday's rally on City Hall plaza and the event would not have been so advanced without their help.

Secondly, thank you to all the committee participants: Glen Richards, Laurie Fortman, Tara (for Dykes on Bikes), the folks of Blackstones, Dennis Ferrante, Rita Kissen, Mark MacDonald, Fred Wilson, "Mac" (aka Babs Bush), Scott Hansen, Paula Stockholm, and the staff of Sisters.

Thirdly, thanks to all the parade marshals, Sentinel Security, the vendors and the stage hands. Thanks to the bars for their floats: The Underground, Käos, and Blackstones. Thanks to all the special participants: Miss Maine, Frannie Peabody, Bee Bell, Roland Blais, the Names Project, Ann Rand, Outright, MLGPA, PFLAG,

and to all the groups who marched.

Fourthly, thanks to Concerned Maine Families for not accepting our invitation for a table at Pride for civil and principled debate on restricting human rights. In a hysterical response to our invitation, CMF convinced Channel 13 to bring its cameras to the polls on June 14th. CMF failed to provide any video of militant gays harassing petition gatherers. The resultant press from her failure to show up at Pride on June 18th got her a chance to shoot herself in the foot twice in one week.

Thanks again to everyone - join us in working for "State Wide Pride '95."

Michael Rosetti

Red Ribbon Restaurant Night to Benefit the Peabody House:

At 14 Orchard Street, Portland, ME, the building which will this fall become Peabody House is being renovated. Peabody House will be a true home with a supportive, holistic environment for people in the advanced stages of HIV disease. The goal of Peabody House is to foster and maximize human dignity, respect the autonomy of each individual and enable self-determination. Clients may choose both the type and the level of care they receive, from assisted, independent living to total hospice care.

On Saturday, August 20 eat out at a participating restaurant between 12 noon and 10pm. Peabody House will receive 10% of the bill and you will receive a gorgeous red ribbon for your lapel. The list of restaurants has just been started so for further information, please call the Peabody House business office at (207) 774-6281.

apex \ˈā-peks\ *n.* 1 **a:** the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) **b:** the narrowed or pointed end: TIP (the ~ of the tongue) 2: the highest or culminating point (the ~ of her career) *syn* see SUMMIT.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective.

More LEON from page 1

don't believe you can recruit 20 local low income, school anxiety ridden, poverty stricken, students that will succeed with a 30 minute commute to college. But if you do, we'll let them in next semester.

Don moves on to problem #3. The money issue. The Beer Barrel crowd had no money and what they did have wasn't earmarked for books or tuition. Don became the king of financial aid forms. Don didn't expect people would come to him. He went to the Beer Barrel and stood there at the bar amongst those pitchers of beer and billows of smoke with the TV and juke box blaring and he made out a financial aid form for every person who belled up to that neighborhood bar. There was the softball team, the taxi drivers, bartenders and card players, the quiet and the noisy.

Now Don's relationship with people filling out financial aid forms was kind of like priest and confessor. All information was very privileged. Don would pose the questions and interpret the answers to insure the maximum educational opportunity.

Well, Don brought more money into the neighborhood than Bath Iron Works even ever promised to. Don's financial aid expertise was the biggest economical development project that the West End had or probably will ever see. People got work study, they got money for child care and they got money for school.

Once people realized they would be

rewarded financially not in the future but in the now they were a lot more interested in school. Don provided people with confidence and eternal advocacy.

Don made things fun for people. The Beer Barrel Crowd went to college, they went to USM and they went to SMVTI. They were successful; the university and vocational schools were opened up to regular people. Don with his spirit and sense of play proved that the university's exclusive policies were a thing of the past. Don was always looking forward, paving the way, researching the future, making a personal statement about justice, about free and universal education.

Don had his own student loans and there were student loan people who were interested in contacting Mr. Plourde. Now everyone knew that 1) Don believed in free and universal education and 2) that if the student loan people called Don, he was not in, we didn't know him personally and sure didn't know where he lived or worked. I have to say I think Don enjoyed avoiding his student loans. He was role-modeling for the Educational Opportunity Center program. He may have started the tradition of avoiding student loan payments,

I don't know.

Don was a guy with an attitude, a guy from Lewiston, a guy who believed in justice. The Beer Barrel is gone, turned into a laundromat, but Don's legacy continues in the lives and institutes he changed.

NORMAND PLOURDE'S TESTIMONIAL TO HIS BROTHER

I would like to begin by saying that giving an appropriate, fair and loving testimonial to the person my brother was in front of so many of his family, close friends and former associates is the heaviest and toughest single responsibility of my life. I am one year and twenty days older, but as it turned out we started school together, were in the same grades, up to the eighth grade and graduated from Lewiston High together in 1969. I am quiet, reserved, the introvert, he was the extrovert, outgoing and as most of you know, most outspoken. He was the spokesman for the two of us and the more responsible. If it had been up to me, it would be my remains there in that urn and him standing here with the responsibility.

More LEON page 11

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS



Have you or someone you
know been a victim?



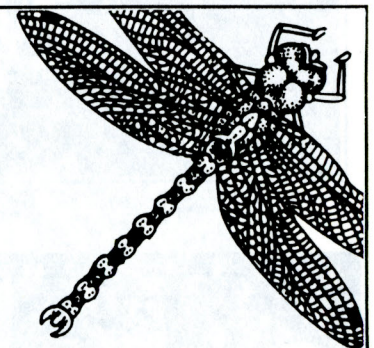
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DRAGON

PHOTOGRAPHER

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WEDDINGS • UNIONS • PARTIES



photo by Madeleine Winter

STONEWALL NOTES

by Bee Bell
For Leonine Don

At Stonewall I saw drag kings and drag queens take over 7th Avenue for cat walks and butch struts all Friday night, while the rest of the Stonewall Was a Drag march carried pink foamcore rifles and chanted "We're here, we're queer, we'll take 5th Avenue" and "Arrest us, just try it, Stonewall was a riot!" I saw confrontations with cops all weekend, all successful, starting with the calm, truly Radical Faeries faggily warning off several policemen as they quietly chanted, "Go home. You have no power here." The cops retreated, as they did Sunday when the illegal ACT UP-led feeder march did take 5th Avenue - 9 miles of it - pushing the police barricades back block by block until they finally just got out of our way. I saw my first girlfriend, which was great. I saw a friend from college who helped me pass out Dyke Manifestos

around the 30,000-woman Dyke March Saturday evening, which began by pushing right through a line of cops and ignoring threats of arrest. My friend, now living in New York (well, Hoboken), informed me that he was doing the NYC cop who was in charge of all the weekend police activities. I saw another friend from school who marched with ACT UP on Stonewall Sunday during a 12-hour layover on the way to Nairobi to meet his Cape Verdian father who he'd just found this June - "This year I was too busy being black and mixed-race and adopted. Next year I'll be gay," he told me. I saw the anti-Militarism Working Group go off to flyer fellow homos attending fundraisers held on U.S. battleships - especially the Intrepid, a big one from the fucking Persian Gulf War. Speaking of queers with

More NOTES ➡ page 8



photo by Annette Dragon



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photo by Annette Dragon



photo by Madeleine Winter

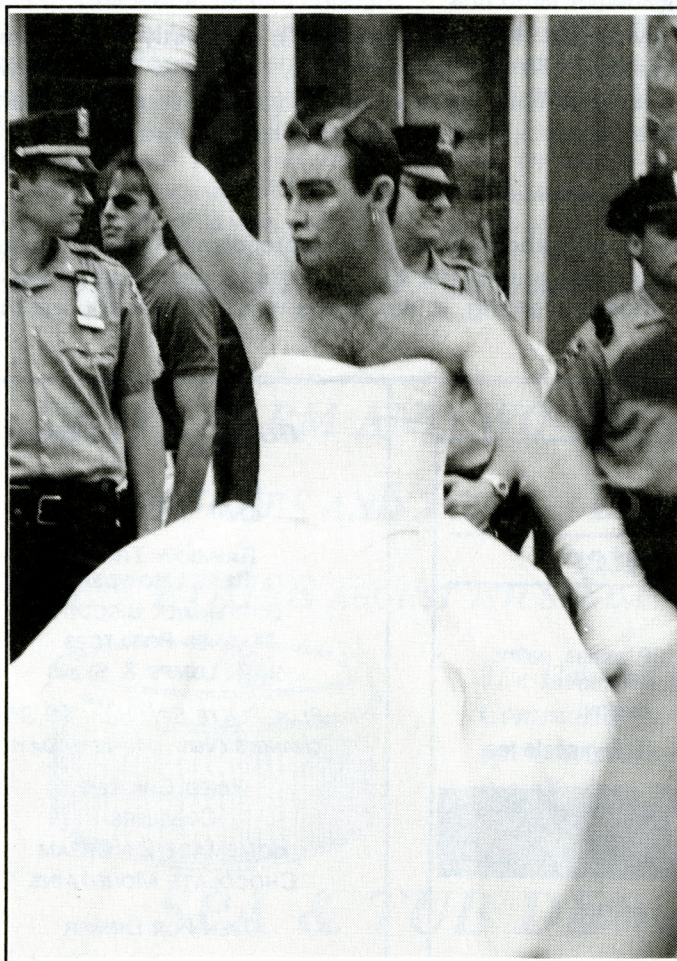


photo by Madeleine Winter



photo by Diane Matthews

COMING OUT, COMING HOME

*Don Plourde, who wrote the APEX series **Coming Out, Coming Home** under the pseudonym "Leon," died in July. On the day he learned that his death was imminent, he told me that he would try to write down thoughts for one more column, in which he would reveal his identity and share some final words. We also agreed on an alternative if he didn't feel up to writing; I would write a column describing some of the other columns he had planned to write when he first conceived the series. This was the column I intended to write here until I discovered an unfinished column in his apartment. So this month, I present that column, with his own title, followed by the other material on the topic I believe he would have wanted to add. Next month, I will present the column he and I agreed upon. It has been an honor to be Don's informal editor for the series, and a much greater pleasure to be his friend. And while I could not hope to approximate the distinctive and eloquent style that fans of "Leon" have come to love, or to do justice to the topics as he would have done, I will try to convey some of what he had hoped to write about.*

Erica Rand

FROM THE COMFORTS OF PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND SECURITY TO THE PITTS OF MEDICAID AND SPEND-DOWN

When people ask, as they often do, "When did you get AIDS?" increasingly I tend to respond with the question, "Just what do you want to know?" Do they want to know when HIV first entered my body? Do they want to know when I first knew I had HIV, because a blood test said I did? Do they want to know when I first became ill? Do they want to know when a doctor first said to me, "you have AIDS?" Do they want to know when, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the Social Security Administration [standards] for determining disability? Do they want to know when I came to the conclusion, "I have AIDS?" Do they want to know when it became debilitating (and even devastating) to my life as I had come to know and enjoy it?

For the people who want an answer to the first question (when did HIV enter my body?), I honestly don't know, no idea. These people sometimes also want to know: from whom? To that question also, I honestly don't know and I honestly don't care. To the other questions above, I have answers. They are often not simple answers. Ever changing medical terminology, bureaucratic protocols and people's perceptions, often based on a lack of information, impact on the lives of people with AIDS in varying degrees.

Don's manuscript stops here. I'm not sure what Don wanted to write about bureaucratic protocols. He talked sometimes about the impact on people with AIDS of government indifference and of the CDC's horrible classification system - which fails to include many known AIDS-related illnesses, thus preventing, in numerous ways, diagnosis, treatment,



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and research. He also talked about the pharmaceuticals' crimes: profit-directed research, drugs priced beyond reach of people who need them. He expressed admiration for activist groups that took on pharmaceutical companies; no one who actually had AIDS, he said, could fail to appreciate ACT UP.

But I think that Don especially wanted to write here about Medicaid. He wanted everyone to learn what he learned after he lost his health insurance coverage about what it is really like to be poor and sick. He wanted everyone to know about the Medicaid "spend-down," which works as follows. Medicaid will only help you pay for medical costs after you have spent all but approximately \$390 of your income per month on health care yourself. This would be bad enough, but you also have to meet your whole "spend-down" for a six-month period before you can get covered for that period. For Don, who lived on a disability check of \$660 per month, this meant racking up bills of over \$1600. Ironically, this was easiest to do by being hospitalized: you could use bills for proof without having paid

them first. But if you needed medicine instead, which you have to pay for when you get it, this means spending money you can't possibly have in order to get help because you don't have the money. Why can't the government do simple math? If you can drop \$1600 on meds, you don't need Medicaid; if you can't afford to wait for reimbursement (which also means you probably don't have a credit card), you need Medicaid but you can't get it. Besides being virtually impossible, this situation was, Don said, degrading, especially because you were required to go through reapplication every six months to be even eligible for Medicaid - even if it was clear that your expenses were going to remain constant.

Thus, like many people with AIDS and other expensive-to-treat illnesses, Don was forced to forego many meds that would have helped him - usually those that would "only" provide relief from pain or nausea, and sometimes even necessary meds. For instance, when he had shingles, a week's supply of the drug he absolutely needed cost \$150; ointment to relieve the intense pain was \$40 per tiny tube on top of

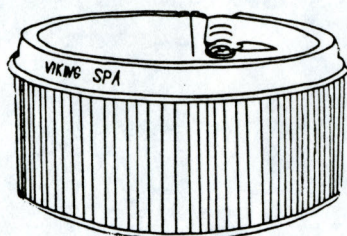
this - and on top of the other meds he was already taking. Every week, he'd have to decide what he could pay for, what he could live without (which I mean literally), and what he couldn't pay for but needed enough to try to tap into other sources - sources with insufficient funds given the number of people who need them. Were his glasses inadequate enough to justify requesting money from the Ryan White Fund? Was his pain enough, or the consequence of foregoing a certain drug enough, to ask his friends for help in procuring medication?

Those readers who, like many people, prefer to keep their finances private may wonder whether Don would have wanted me to disclose his own so baldly. But I know that he would. He talked openly about them himself because he wanted everyone to know, dollar-for-dollar, what the cliché "skyrocketing medical costs" actually means. An activist for social justice to the end, Don used his own situation to teach people about why we so desperately need a single-payer universal health care system that takes access to health care out of the hands of insurance and pharmaceutical companies. ▼

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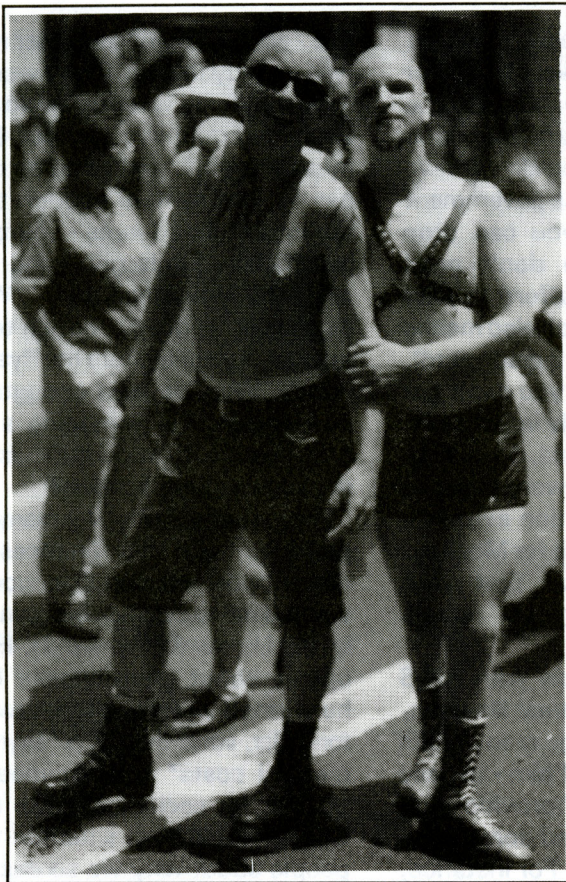


photo by Annette Dragon

More NOTES from page 4

crummy politics, I also heard that Stonewall speaker and former CBS broadcast journalist Ann Northrop bitched out (1) conservative gay men for trying to stomp on the rest of us and ruin our movement, and (2) Sandra Bernhardt, who in her speech apparently said lesbians should learn to dress more demurely and use more make-up. Thanks, Ann. And Sandra, you know what you can do with your lipstick. I saw my own blood going by when the Latvian and Lithuanian queers marched with the other internationals into Central Park. I thought about Don Plourde, fighting off AIDS back in the hospital in Lewiston, and about other friends there who had planned early on not to come to Stonewall because we badly need to spend our money and organize back here in Maine. \$200, or whatever the weekend cost you, gets a lot more done here than it does in New York.

Stonewall's unruliness felt good. It especially felt good compared with the one year younger, less political, military-loving March on Washington. And our big numbers mean big, scary, memorable power. Now we need to see everyone who got down to Stonewall put that power together to campaign, march, and riot where you get more bang for your buck: back in Maine. ▼



photo by Annette Dragon

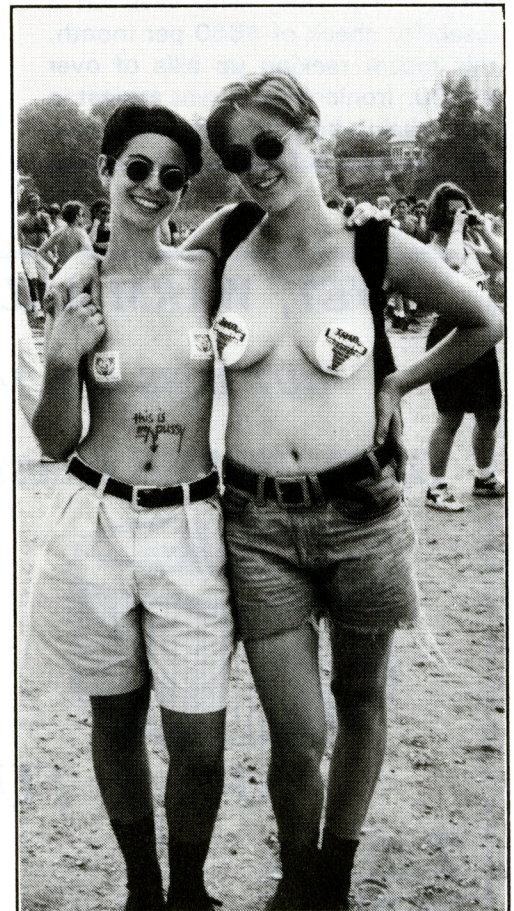


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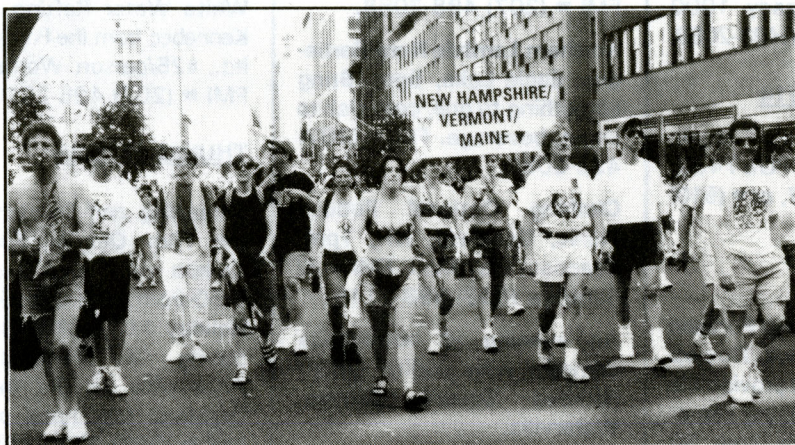


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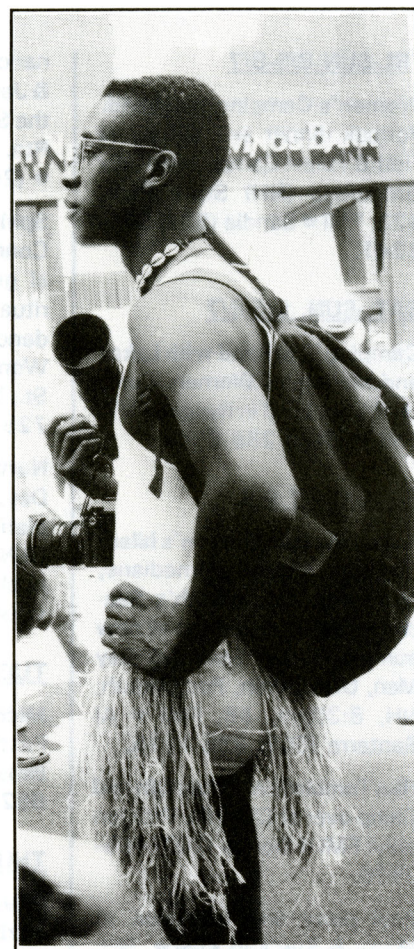


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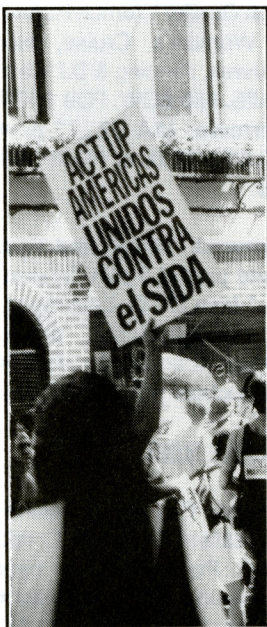


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CALENDAR . . .

FRI.-SUN 8/5-8/7

Women's Camping Weekend. Potluck dinner and dance, at Field & Forest Campground near Greenfield (NH) State Park, \$23. FMI ☐ Sandie (802) 885-5241.

SAT.-SUN. 8/6-8/7

Camping Weekend with Lakes and Mountains Women. Camp on Private Land in Ryegate, VT. FMI ☐ (603) 286-8664.

SATURDAY 8/6

Naked Brunch, Boston's hilarious gay improv comedians, returns to Portsmouth's Seacoast Gay Men with an all new summer show. Seacoast Gay Men, UU Church, Portsmouth, NH, 8:30pm, \$8. FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Hike Tumbledown Mountain and Camp over at Blue Hill. Women only! FMI ☐ Donna (207) 495-2510.

Pool party and barbecue at Marty & Sue's in Keene, NH, 1pm. Bring something to grill. FMI ☐ (603) 357-5757.

SUNDAY 8/7

Open House Seminar for the Lesbian/Gay Community explaining installation, mainte-

nance & benefits of hot tubs & Jacuzzi baths. 4-6:30pm at the **Spa & Tub Depot**, 348 U.S. Rte. 1, Scarborough, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 883-6320.

Spirituality & Empowerment. Connect with your inner spiritual guidance through stories, ritual, and meditation. Non-denominational. Safe Space Women's Ctr of ME, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 725-7632.

Northern Lambda Nord Library Day, New Sweden, 3pm, completing the organization of the NLN library by putting card pockets in the nearly 1000 volumes. FMI ☐ (207) 498-2088.

TUES.-SUN 8/9-8/14

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. FMI write POB 7430, Berkeley, CA 94797, or ☐ (510) 652-5441.

THURSDAY 8/11

Watch the sunset over Portland Harbor as Matlovich Throws a Lawn Party! We'll provide the grill & games: you bring something tasty to share. 7pm, 38 Myrtle St., So. Portland (One block from Southern Maine Technical College: if lost, call (207) 799-8744).

FRI.-SAT. 8/12-8/13

Introduction to Canoe Camping, Ascutney, Vt., \$125, Women's Outdoor Challenges (603) 763-5400.

FRIDAY 8/12

Feminist Film Series, Building Community, Finding Love. At the Belfast Library, Abbott room. (This is all info available).

SATURDAY 8/13

Northern Lambda Nord Barbeque, Presque Isle, 2pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI ☐ (207) 498-2088.

Dreamwork, Unity, and You. 3 part "dreamshop" 9am -12 noon (8/13, 8/27, 9/10), Unity Church, 54 River Rd., Windham. Regist. ltd. \$75/series; sliding scale available. FMI ☐ Unity (207) 774-3535 to register or Rick Bouchard at (207) 828-2031.

Deep Sea Fishing, out of Boothbay for ½ day. Ltd. space. Women Only! FMI ☐ (207) 495-2510.

SUNDAY 8/14

Northern Lambda Nord Monthly meeting, Eagle Lake, 3-5pm. FMI ☐ (207) 498-2088.

Northern Lambda Nord Barbeque, Eagle Lake, 5pm. Bring something to grill, cold dish to share, beverage. FMI ☐ (207) 498-2088.

Clothing Optional Potluck Picnic, Deerfield, NH, 1pm. Seacoast Gay Men, FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

An evening of outrageous comedy with Judith Sloan. Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville.

FRI.-MON. 8/19-8/22

Womensphere Summer Retreat at Walnut Hill, Raymond, NH. FMI ☐ (603) 659-2139, or Driege/Bernard, 20 Bay Rd., Lot 19, Newmarket, NH 03857.

SATURDAY 8/20

Eat Out! Fight AIDS! Eat at a favorite restaurant and help Peabody House at the same time. 12 noon - 10pm at participating restaurants in the greater Portland, ME area (see page 2 for more information).

Lambda Dance, Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. FMI ☐ (603) 746-3339.

Seacoast Gay Men celebrate Twin-State S.A.M. Anniversary Party in Vermont (Dartmouth/Hanover area). Easy to reach

on I-89. FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Creativity Night - Bring your latest creative project to work on, or learn new crafts and techniques. Enjoy the energy of shared creativity. Safe Space Women's Ctr of ME, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 725-7632.

Volleyball, Croquet & Potluck Bar-B-Que followed by the Lambda Dance in Henniker. FMI ☐ Kim (603) 675-6865. An Amelia's event.

White Water Rafting on the Kennebec from the Forks, space ltd., \$25/person. Women only! FMI ☐ (207) 495-2510.

THURSDAY 8/25

Screening and Discussion of the Film *Out in Suburbia: Stories of Eleven Lesbians*. 7:30-9pm, Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI ☐ (207) 773-1209.

SATURDAY 8/27

Boston Quality Women Harbor-fest Woman's Cruise, Hor d'Oeuvres, dancing & DJ. Cash bar. \$25. FMI BQW, POB 1050, Watertown, MA 02272 or ☐ (617) 522-9878 or (617) 283-2298.

Dreamwork, Unity, and You. Second part of 3 part "dreamshop." (see 8/13). Late regist. may be considered, tuition adjusted accordingly. FMI ☐ Rick Bouchard (207) 828-2031.

MONDAY 8/29

Seacoast Gay Men lobster cheap/eats at Chauncey Creek, Kittery Point, Maine near Portsmouth, NH, 6pm. FMI ☐ Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

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MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest on 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sun.

NOTICES

7th Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life & Mermaid Brunch AIDS Benefit, Sat., 9/10/94. For swimmer regist., pledge sheets & info: POB 819, Provincetown, MA 02657 or ☎ (508) 487-3684.

Out of this World with Sonia Johnson. Weekend workshops 9/23-25, 1994, Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME. \$265/person (includes lodging and meals). FMI ☎ (207) 442-7061 or write Gloria Krellman, RR1, Box 1145, Woolwich, Maine 04579.

Equal Protection Maine/Bangor meets 1st Sun. each month. FMI contact EPM, POB 963, Bangor, ME 04402.

Planning for Symposium '95 has begun. Please send ideas and suggestions to Symposium '95, POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736 or call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline Wednesdays between 7-9pm (207) 498-2088.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Essays, poems, stories sought about violence in the home for an anthology. FMI SASE to Queen of Swords Press, POB 3646, Eugene, OR 97403.

Dancing in the Heart of Wonder: Women Exploring the Mind/Body Relationship; an anthology seeking personal stories. FMI: SASE to Stevens, 50 Pleasant St., 9E, Brookline, MA 02146.

Poster for 1995 National Lesbian/Gay Book Month. Poster will hang in 500 national libraries/bookstores. FMI Michele Karlsber, c/o The Publishing Triangle, POB 114, Prince Street Station, NY, NY 10012 (718)351-9599.

More LEON from page 3

Donald earned my lifelong love, admiration, respect and envy during our teen years. He took me, his older brother, under his wing. He was my social director. He dragged me, kicking, to the PAL hops, school functions, and when he went off with some of his many friends, he made sure I was not left out.

Donald, myself and our brothers Raymond, Roland and Richard are fortunate to have been raised and nurtured by two special loving and caring parents. He got his love for life, his wit and his sharp tongue from his mother. His handsome looks, strong sense of responsibility, inner strength and pride in being the man he was came from his father. His unconditional and great love and respect for these two people sitting in the front row here today is beyond my ability to adequately put into words. Don grew up in a large family of good aunts and uncles, lots of cousins, paternal and maternal. A family with a strong French Canadian cultural heritage on both sides. My father's family were St. John River Valley farmers who came to Lewiston for jobs at the time of the second world war. My mother's mother,

at a young age, was among the early immigrants from Canada who came to work in the mills of Lewiston. Don was proud of his heritage, proud of the family he grew up in. He was there for many of us when we needed his support, professional expertise and his love. There, that's the easy part - now for the hard stuff.

Donald was a proud gay man. There! I've said it. Regretfully, it's not easy to say. Communication, amongst ourselves, is not one of my immediate family strong points. Don was a big advocate in the gay community for being open about their sexuality. "Coming out of the closet" as they call it. Don created his closet out of necessity at a young age, of sturdy material, and it served him well; for a time he flourished in it. But as closets do, it became cramped, full of stuff, more and more of it unpleasant nasty baggage. He eventually moved to Washington DC and left the closet behind but he never totally dismantled that closet. When he came back home, with a life-threatening

and disabling disease, the closet was still there to use as he needed it. And boy did he need it. It was so ingrained, so much a part of the first 30 years of his life, and I believe the foundation of that closet came with him at birth, that, in the family setting it was just too easy to settle back into it and close the door. The cultural heritage he was so proud to be part of, the 2,000 years of religious doctrine that was a large part of the first 17 years of his life, and the society he grew up in created a sturdy wall between him and his family, particularly his beloved mother and father. A wall through which things were felt and understood but not talked about - not that they wouldn't talk, they just plain couldn't say the words.

Now the real tough part. I am a heterosexual male, a "straight" man. I suffer from homophobia. The greatest gift Don gave to me was to gently and with much understanding guide me through the process of overcoming my phobia.

More LEON ☎ page 15

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ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

Do girls just wanna have fun? I was recently picked up by a roguish, toughish little babydyke. She smiled a big smile, blinked her big brown eyes, and hypnotized me with flirtations of cheap sweaty sex at her place - but only if, as she herself coolly shrugged, there were completely no strings attached. She wanted to preserve her bad reputation. To make a long story short, Thighmaster, this girl did me like I've only been done in my dreams. But now I am in a bit of a quandary. I thought it would be just easy and fun, but this person, despite her own warnings to me, suddenly wants much more. She calls me every two hours, follows me around town . . . you get the picture? My question is: am I just old fashioned, or is it not possible for two dykes to carry on an extremely casual sexual relationship? Or are we all doomed to eventual monogamy, the inevitable U-Haul, etc., etc.?

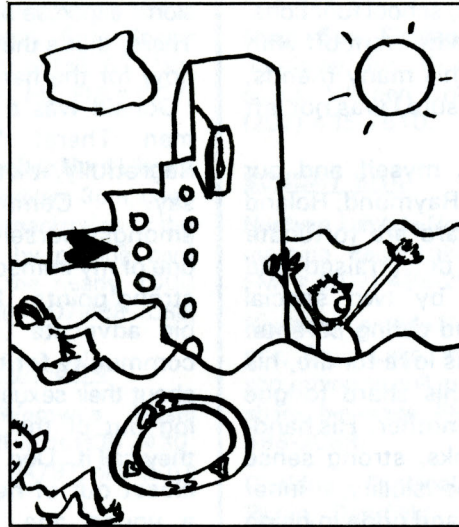
Sincerely,
Old-Fashioned Girl

Dear Fashioned,

Yes it's possible and yes you're old-fashioned - or at least your info on the dating game certainly is. Are you still getting your sex etiquette by stealing books from your mom or what? Toss *Sex and the Single Girl*, *How to Pick Up Girls*, or whatever trash you've been reading, and go get your sex education where you should have gone all along: the proverbial back alleys where the real truth has always been. It's obvious to Thighmaster that you still think a sex scam sounds like this: "I know I've just met you, but when I look into your eyes - which, by the way, are as profoundly _____ (fill in color) as the _____ (fill in nature item) in Sappho's grove - I realize I'm falling in love with you. Let's venture into a union of body and soul that I'm sure would last a lifetime but only if we start right now." So you memorized these lines and now you think you're safe, right?

Wrong. Does Thighmaster have to remind readers every month that you're

never safe if you fuck in the '90s to the rules of days gone by? The new rules aren't just about latex barriers. If you've only got the brain space for one new item, latex, of course, should be it. But try to enter two more pieces of data



drawing by Naomi Falcone

about what's been going on since your own "roguish, toughish, little babydyke" years. The first, a bit off the topic, is that many young dykes today think that "babydyke" is a condescending, demeaning term used by ageist jerks who probably think it's ok to design social "services" for queer youth without asking anyone under 25 what they might need or want from them, if anything. So don't murmur this term endearingly at hot moments unless you get consent first. The second is that the big dyke dating scam on the streets these days is the opposite of the one you were trained to be wise to. People used to get sex by pretending to want marriage; now they try to get marriage by pretending to want only sex. Why would anyone do this, you wonder? 1. Self protection: if it doesn't work, she can kiss you off without feeling guilty (after all, you knew the score) and without revealing her June Cleaver nature. 2. Obviously, it works. And not just on you: Thighmaster pulled your letter from a stack of mail detailing similar tales of woe. The list of variations in the scamline goes on and on: I'm in love with someone else and will only have time to do you once a month;

it will just be an extension of our friendship; I'm politically opposed to "body ownership." The punchline, however, is always the same: now she/he calls me every two hours.

But take heart, o wronged one. Here's one of those crimes for which the villain always eventually gets punished by the forces of justice. Why? Because nine out of ten times, the chucky who's beating it into you that she's not the marrying kind is, to quote the sonnet guy, protesting too much. There's no surer sign that someone wants to get married than if she tells you she doesn't 6 times before push comes to shove. In fact, she's so deafened by fantasized wedding bells that she doesn't even think about one kind of person who will really buy her line: Someone like you who likes what she's hearing, and who will dump her when she tells you she's changed her mind. Need proof that revenge is inevitable? Thighmaster reminds you of that Love Boat where Pamela Sue Martin from Dynasty pretended to be married to avoid complications, met a guy, warned him to stay casual, did him, fell in love, and then told him that she was really single so they could "get involved." Guess what? He was married himself. Now why did Love Boat depart from its happy-ending format - violated only one other time when Julie Your Cruise Director got left at the altar by an Australian animal doctor who had just discovered during a routine check-up that he had 30 days to live - in order to tell this story? Because this goodwill TV truth teller was trying to prevent people like you and your obsessed ex (Thighmaster presumes that the phone calls were enough to clue you in here) from playing either role in that too common script. Alas, Captain Stubing, it seems, was like John the Baptist, crying out in the wilderness before anyone was ready to hear him. Now's the time to get on the boat. You're bound to find someone exciting and new.

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112. ♥

More NEWS from page 1

it hard to miss the photograph of a male couple.

That photograph was published as part of the first Gay union announcement ever published by the daily newspaper. Months earlier, Alejandro A. Herrera and Robert Louis Knight had submitted a standard wedding announcement form, a Travis County, Texas domestic partnership certificate, and a photograph for publication.

El Paso Times publisher Don Flores said his paper's editorial staff debated and discussed at length whether to publish Herrera and Knight's submission. A few staff members expressed disapproval, Flores said.

"As we produce the *Times*, we strive to be inclusive to people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability, age, or economic standing," wrote Flores in an editorial which ran the same day as the union announcement. "On most days, we succeed. I strongly believe the *Times* succeeds today."

The announcement was strongly worded, saying the couple "married" rather than the more common wording of 'celebrated their commitment' or 'joined in a holy union.' Flores declined to comment on readers' reaction, saying he would not comment on a heterosexual wedding announcement and wished to treat the Gay wedding announcement the same way. Two *El Paso Times* staffers said the paper has been deluged with phone calls about the announcement. ▼



photo by Annette Dragon

ACT UP/Portland demonstrates its welcome for Clinton 7/18/94.

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RESOURCE GUIDE

LIST YOUR GROUP! PLEASE SEND INFORMATION AND/OR UPDATES TO PHOENIX PRESS, POB 4743, PORTLAND, ME 04112

HOT-LINES

THE AIDS LINE: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. Questions re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon./Wed. eve. to 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK - for lesbian/gay/bisexual/questioning youth under 19.

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE, Caribou area: (207)498-2088.

GAY INFO LINE, Concord, NH (603)224-1686. Social, legal, therapeutic & educational referrals.

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
P.O. Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS
POB 125, Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-2913. Calendar of events for central coastal Maine.

EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

THE MATLOVICH SOCIETY - Lesbians/bisexuals/gaymen/friends committed to sharing our history & providing affirming presentations/discussions. 2nd/4th Thurs. each month, 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 773-1209.

SOCIAL GROUPS

AM CHOFSHI - Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI ☐ (207) 874-2970 (Rheatha).

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from west. ME/east. NH. Potlucks/activities. FMI ☐ (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - Lesbians over 18 in Seacoast NH area. Nonprofit lesbian support and educational

group. Meets Mon., 7pm. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. FMI POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802 or ☐ (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN - meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH; POB 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802. FMI ☐ (603) 898-1115.

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation/environmental club for lesbians, gay men & friends. Free newsletter lists events for NH/ME area. FMI ☐ (207) 871-9940 or SASE: POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104.

SUPPORT GROUPS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP - Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Ctr, 334 Harlow St., Bangor, ME, 1st/3rd Wed. monthly, 6:30-8pm. FMI ☐ (207) 947-5337. For any woman self-identified as a lesbian. Woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues & affirm our lesbianism. Confidentiality, openmindedness, respect required.

PETS ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT (PAWS/MAINE) - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 871-9109; FAX (207) 879-0761.

SAFE SPACE WOMEN'S CENTER OF MAINE - 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Self-help recovery group Mon. 7-9:30pm; open house Fri. 7-9:30pm. FMI ☐ (207) 725-7632.

LAVENDER WOMYN - Lesbian/Bisexual Women's discussion group. Tues. 6:30-8:30pm. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., So. Auburn, ME 04210. FMI ☐ (207) 783-0461.

FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE - No cost, educ./rap group for gay/bisexual men in this time of HIV/AIDS. 7pm, at AIDS Response of the Seacoast, 147 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI ☐ (603) 433-5377.

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Sq., 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101. FMI ☐ (207)774-6877 re: support groups in Portland, Auburn/Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

AIDS RESPONSE - 147 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH 03801. (603) 433-5377; fax (603) 431-8520.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston, ME. Support for HIV+ people/loved ones. Tues. 7:30-9pm. FMI ☐ (207) 786-4697.

THE BRIDGE AT COLBY - Student support/discussion group. FMI ☐ Steven (207) 872-3635 (leave msg).

CRONES - for women over 40. POB 242, Winooski, VT 05404.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF MAINE - FMI: POB 13, Augusta, ME 04330.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS' GROUP, monthly support/info. POB 13, Augusta, ME 04332.

MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN - POB 6345, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-5757

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD - POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. Serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; social activities, discussion grps/speakers bureau; monthly newsletter/activities calendar.

LEWISTON-AUBURN GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Weekly open group. Mon. 7pm, UU Church, Spring St., Auburn, ME.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly support mtg, info., fun/special events for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, Williston West Church, upstairs chapel, 32 Thomas St., Portland, ME, Fri. 7:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5378, Portland, ME 04101.

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT - group for lesbian/gay/bi/questioning youth 21 & under. Mtgs Fri., 7-9pm, Unitarian Church annex adjacent to fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI ☐ teenline 1-800-639-6095 or write: Seacoast Outright, POB 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL MAINE - For lesbian and gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. POB 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ☐ 1-800-339-4042.

APEX DISTRIBUTION POINTS:

Maine

Gulf of Maine Books, Brunswick
The Square Cafe, Waterville
Papa Joe's, Augusta
Downeast AIDS Network, Ellsworth
Brewster Inn, Dexter
Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Lewiston
GLBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportsman Athletic Club, Lewiston
Homestead Bed & Breakfast, Bar Harbor
Bookland, Mall Plaza, So. Portland
Mike's Place, Lewiston
Fin Back Restaurant, Bar Harbor

Massachusetts

Glad Day Bookshop, Boston
New Words Books, Cambridge
Radzunka's, Haverhill

New Hampshire

Women's Information Service, Lebanon
NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
The Highland's Inn, Bethlehem
Campus G/L/B Alliance, UNH, Durham
ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
Blue Strawberry, Portsmouth
Members, Portsmouth
Lady Iris, Portsmouth

Vermont

Everyone's Books, Brattleboro
LUNA, St. Johnsbury
Rainbow Coalition, Montpelier
The Onion River Co-op, Burlington
GLB Alliance, UVM, Burlington

Portland

Tabitha Jean's Restaurant
Portland Public Library
The AIDS Project
Woodford's Cafe
Raffles Cafe
Books, Etc.
YWCA
Kaos
Sisters
Videoport
Chartroom
Underground
Blackstones
Condom Sense
Central Beat
Bayou Kitchen
Treasure Chest
Big Star Video
Good Day Market
Sister Creations
Women's Forum, USM
Maine College of Art
Green Mountain Coffee
Counseling Center, USM

Or delivered to your door by subscription (see form on page 13)!

PWA COALITION OF MAINE
377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congr. Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 369-0259.

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE - meets Fri. noon at U. New England campus, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME 04005 FMI ☐ (207) 283-0171 x372.

MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES - POB 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Support services for AIDS/HIV. FMI ☐ (207) 725-4955.

OUT AMONG FRIENDS - Discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7-8:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI ☐ (207) 799-0297.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP
Open support/discussion for women only. Weds. 1-3:30pm. FMI ☐ (207) 874-6593 or (207) 774-3613.

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE - Statewide, non-partisan org. promotes civil rights in ME and involves lesbian/gay community in political process. Mtgs in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI ☐ 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time/place.

FREDERICTON LESBIANS/GAYS
PO Box 1556, Station A
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada
(506) 457-2156

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland)
(207) 828-0566 (phone & fax); Sun. 7pm YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

APOLLO SOCIETY - Gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. Free speech/civil rights advocacy, free

dom-from-religion support/fun! FMI ☐ (207) 773-5726 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd., ME 04101, (207) 879-0877/(207) 871-0618, POB 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Speakers/events for the public 4th Tues. of every month.

SPIRITUAL

DELTA PHYRE - Worship the Goddess at monthly Full Moon Circles. Open to wimmin (no transsexuals, please). Bring musical instruments. FMI ☐ Lady Alaina (207) 676-7914.

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS - gay/straight, justice-seeking community meets for worship 2nd & 4th Sun. 5pm, 1st Congregational Church, N. Main St. & Washington St., Concord, NH. Potluck after service. FMI ☐ Jim Bretz (603) 536-4011.

INTEGRITY/DIGNITY - 3rd Sun. St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 5:15pm. All welcome. Fellowship and potluck follows each service. Ministering to the lesbian/gay community. FMI write POB 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

INTEGRITY - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. 1st Fri. each month, 7pm. FMI ☐ (207) 622-6631.

FRIDAY NIGHT CHURCH SERVICES
State Street Church (United Church of Christ), 159 State St., Portland, ME. Inclusion, love and transformation in contemporary language. Accessible and child care. FMI ☐ (207) 774-6396.

MUSIC

MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS - Community chorus. FMI write M.G.M.C., POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

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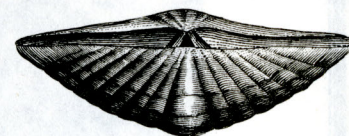
PERSONAL GROWTH

Ongoing Dream Group. This closed, experiential group will explore members' dreams through many approaches: Jungian, Gestalt, and Sculpting; attention also paid to Lucid Dreaming, Dream Incubation, Active Imagination, and Spirituality. Thursday evenings, 7-9pm, 14 weeks with the option to continue in subsequent "dreamcycles." Portland-based. Begins 9/15/94. \$20-40 per session. Call Rick Bouchard at (207) 828-2031 for interview.//

More LEON from page 11

It was a long and difficult process and I'm sorry to say not yet complete. It started over 20 years ago when Don brought me to a gay bar, his way of coming out to me. I believe I'm well along in the process and have faith that someday it will be complete. Because of Don's efforts and understanding I have been able to develop friendships and acquaintances with wonderful people from within the gay community that otherwise would not have happened.

Don's last years were spent helping and guiding others, like my parents, my brothers and especially important to him, young high school age gay men and women, too many of which are finding suicide to be the only solution. When he could hardly walk and the knowledge that every step could be his last, he went to the high school to talk to them. In a telephone conversation with one of his newest and dearest friends who was informing me that he had once again been admitted to the hospital, I realized this was going to be his last battle, I said "he's always been so strong." I would like to close with her response, "Yeah, he's one tough guy." ▼



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Upcoming Events

Lesbian Lounge Lizards &
Monica Grant
Oct. 1, 1994

Dance
Oct. 15, 1994

Holly Near
Nov. 5, 1994

Holiday Dance
Dec. 10, 1994

Valentine's Dance
Feb. 4, 1995

Ann Reed
March 18, 1995

Heather Bishop
May 6, 1995